



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

Program: Huanglongbing (HLB – Citrus Greening) Date: March 16, 2006

HLB was first discovered in late August 2005 in South Florida by a Florida CAPS – SITC team conducting a Hot Zone survey at an Asian farm growing exotic tropical fruits. To date there have been a total of 2,953 HLB samples taken accounting for 598 HLB positive residential trees on 532 residential properties in the following Florida counties: Lee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Hendry, Collier, Sarasota, Highlands, and Desoto. The majority of the HLB positive sites were in residential areas, however, there have been HLB detections made in 15 commercial grove trees in Collier, Desoto, Hendry, Martin, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties. Since the initial detection of HLB, both PPQ and the State of Florida have been working at harmonizing a regulatory response plan including addressing intrastate and interstate movement of HLB and Asian citrus psyllid host material.

On March 7, 2006, APHIS posted for comment a draft citrus health response plan, which marks the first step toward a new approach for sustaining Florida's citrus industry in light of recent realities about citrus canker spread and other disease threats. The draft plan would establish an area-wide compliance program and identify minimum standards for implementing appropriate survey, diagnostics, and mitigation measures to reduce the proliferation and spread of citrus canker and other diseases of regulatory significance. In addition to sustaining Florida's citrus industry, the goal of the plan is also to safeguard other citrus producing states against the spread of citrus canker and citrus greening. The draft plan is available on the APHIS Web site at:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pdmp/citrushealth/html>.